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ocer". The author's unfamiliarity with the technical terminology of Latin rhetoric leads sometimes to vague renderings, sometimes to an awkward insertion of Latin terms where the proper English word would have been perfectly clear and definite. Faults of idiom and vocabulary could be multiplied almost indefinitely. On p. 30 for example we have "emanated in Italy", on p. 40 "unthoughted", while p. 28 actually yields "furtherest", which, however, we assume to be the invention of the compositor.

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Die Grundlagen Der Griechischen Tempuslehre und die Homerische Tempusgebrauch. Zweiter Band. By Carl Mutzbauer. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner (1909). Pp. xiv + 324.

This is the concluding volume of Professor Mutzbauer's comprehensive work on the Homeric tenses. The first volume appeared in 1893; the second was completed in 1904 but has been delayed in passing through the press. Almost the whole of the present volume, aside from a brief preface and introduction, is devoted to a presentation of the material not included in Volume I. For the sake of uniformity the classification adopted in that volume has been continued. The verbs have been separated into groups according to their stem formation—verbs of the T-class, the nasal class, etc. Professor Mutzbauer adopted this system, he tells us, in the hope that it would throw light on the relative age of parts of the Homeric poems, but he regretted it before the completion of the first volume and he now admits that even the language of Homer is the result of centuries of development and that no chronological conclusions can be inferred from the use of this or that verb-form. An alphabetical arrangement, as he rightly says, would have added greatly to the convenience of the book. The defect is, however, partly atoned for by the addition of a full alphabetical list of verbs.

Professor Mutzbauer's 'temporal creed' may be stated as follows: Kind of time (Zeitart), not sphere of time (Zeitstufe), is the decisive element in the Greek tenses. Greek does not define the time-relations of actions to one another, has no conception of historical narrative, and so has no preeminent historical tense like the Latin perfect or the German preterite. Real time-meaning is indicated only by the present, imperfect, and aorist indicative. The other modes are in themselves timeless—we infer the relations of time from the context or it may be fixed by the use of *ἄμα, μετὰ, ὕστερον*, etc. Duration and repetition are not expressed by the tenses in themselves. The imperfect denotes that an action is developing, progressing, the aorist that it is beginning or drawing to a close. The perfect expresses either a state (which is the result of a completed action) or has intensive meaning. The pluperfect is merely an imperfect of the perfect stem. The future indicates that an action is beginning or drawing to a

close—rarely that it is progressing—in the future. The conative force of the present does not inhere in the form but develops easily from the progressive meaning of the tense. The aorist was chosen for the gnomic function because the aorist possessed ingressive meaning and the sphere of time was disregarded, since Greek lays no stress on sphere of time.

Following this creed to its logical conclusions Professor Mutzbauer seeks everywhere indications of the kind of time: e. g. every imperfect is progressive, every aorist is ingressive or 'concluding' (zum Abschluss gelangende Handlung); other functions are merely derived from these fundamental meanings. If a contradictory force appears, it is merely apparent (scheinbar)! He attempts to drive home his interpretations by persistent translation without hinting that at best translation can only illustrate, not prove, his points, or that it makes a difference whether the translator's native tongue is German, French, English or what you will.

Even if we make due allowance for the difficulties of the subject, the good features of the book are too often marred by false or very questionable theorizing. Space forbids a detailed criticism, but in general it may be said that too little attention has been paid to the bearing on tense functions of the context, of particles and other defining words, of meter and style, and above all of the meaning of the verb. If Professor Mutzbauer had arranged his material in groups according to the meaning of the verbs (verbs of *motion, speech*, etc.) and had then attacked the problems of function, he would have reached different and more reliable results. As it is each reader must do this for himself, and the chief value of the book lies not in its definitions of functions (many of which will be rejected), but in its complete collection of material which will be very useful to the commentator on Homer and the worker in Greek syntax.

BYRN MAWR COLLEGE.

ARTHUR L. WHEELER.

#### EPITAPH UPON A CHILD THAT DIED

Here she lies a pretty bud,  
Lately made of flesh and blood:  
Who as soon fell fast asleep  
As her little eyes did peep.  
Give her strewings, but not stir  
The earth that lightly covers her.—HERRICK.

#### VERSION

Cuius hic tumulum vides puella  
(flos, sed sanguine natus atque carne)  
luci vix patefecit huic ocellos,  
tum somno requievit altiore.  
Sparsis tu violis abi, viator,  
nec terram moveas levem tenellae.

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B. O. FOSTER.